

1-1-2011

UA1F WKU Archives Vertical File - Donald Zacharias Part 2

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Zacharias promises 'open door'

5-25-78
BOWLING GREEN — Dr. Donald Zacharias says he will institute "open-door" and "open-ear" policies when he takes office Aug. 1 as Western Kentucky University's sixth president.

Zacharias, who is replacing retiring Dr. Dero Downing, met Wednesday with the school's board of regents, representatives of the faculty senate and other campus groups.

He said the main concern expressed by faculty members was the salary scale. *Courier Journal*



Western Kentucky University

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
22S0679/SC:jr

DR. DONALD W. ZACHARIAS, WKU'S SIXTH PRESIDENT, WILL ADDRESS SUMMER GRADS

Bowling Green, Ky.--Dr. Donald W. Zacharias, who was appointed the sixth president of Western Kentucky University last May, will be the principal speaker at the University's 120th Commencement Exercises Friday, Aug. 10 at 6:30 P.M. (CDT).

The out-of-doors summer graduation ceremonies will be held at L. T. Smith Stadium.

Dr. Zacharias will take office at WKU for a three-year term beginning Aug. 1.

He presently serves as executive assistant to the chancellor of the University of Texas System at Austin, where he also was a professor of speech communication.

A native of Salem, Ind., Dr. Zacharias was graduated magna cum laude from Georgetown (Ky.) College in 1957 and received his master's (1959) and doctoral (1963) degrees from Indiana University.

He has taught at the high school level and was a teaching associate at Indiana University where he joined the faculty in 1963. Dr. Zacharias came to the University of Texas at Austin as an associate professor in 1969 and was promoted to professor in 1972. He served as assistant to the president of the University of Texas at Austin from 1974 to 1976.

He has won teaching awards at both the Universities of Texas and at Indiana.

He and his wife, Tommie, have three children, Alan, Eric and Leslie.

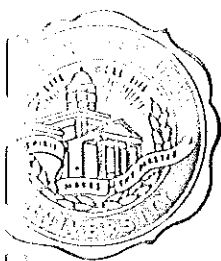
Following Western's Commencement Exercises, the faculty and staff will host a reception for graduates and their families in the Dero Downing University Center.

-30-

Commencement Summer 1975 TELEPHONE (AREA CODE 502) 745-4295

Office of Public Affairs and Public Relations

Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101



News from Western Western Kentucky University

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
14A1179/SC:beb

WKU PRESIDENT ZACHARIAS TO SERVE AASCU PUBLIC RELATIONS GROUP

Bowling Green, Ky.--Dr. Donald W. Zacharias, president of Western Kentucky University, will attend the annual meeting of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) Nov. 18-20 in San Antonio, Texas, as a new member of AASCU's Committee on Public Relations.

Dr. Zacharias was appointed to the 14-member committee by E.K. Fretwell Jr., president of AASCU and chancellor at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Western's president will serve a three-year membership on the committee which reviews the posture of the association in light of educational needs, and promotes techniques to bring that posture to the public attention.

The 18-year-old AASCU comprises 333 state colleges and universities all across the United States and is headquartered in Washington, D.C.

Its purpose is to assist member institutions in meeting goals and objectives and to provide them with a voice in the development of national policies affecting higher education.

-30-

Zacharias

TELEPHONE (AREA CODE 502) 745-4295

Zacharias outlines his plans for Western

12-5-79

By RON MITCHELL
Daily News Staff Writer

The president of Western Kentucky University, speaking to about 400 faculty and staff members Tuesday, outlined his observations on the "state of the university" and presented plans for the immediate future.

"My goal is not to come in and make sweeping changes. My goal is to come in and develop on what is here," said Dr. Donald Zacharias, who began his duties as president Aug. 1.

Zacharias spoke for about 45 minutes during an open forum in Van Meter Auditorium and discussed topics ranging from salaries and wages to his optimism about Gov.-elect John Y. Brown Jr. He suggested, and the faculty and staff agreed, that a similar session be scheduled for mid-February.

"We have a lot of intensive planning

to get ready for what lies ahead. It's rather difficult to know at this point. There are estimates of all kinds regarding everything from the budget to student enrollments in the future," Zacharias said.

Faculty and staff salaries and wages continue to be the major priorities for his administration and the state Council on Higher Education in formulating the 1980-82 biennial budget, according to Zacharias.

"I can't indulge in wild statements about what I wish for. The priority question is behind us. Now it is time to swing into action," he said. "Our continued interest in the employees is not confined to compensation. My goal is to make this university the most outstan-

ding place to work."

Western's president urged the faculty and staff to use creativity and innovation in performing their tasks and to encourage other university employees "not to get to the point of mediocrity."

Beginning Dec. 12, Zacharias said he will begin meeting with employee and faculty groups randomly selected by computer. He said that format has been successful with other university groups in "continuing the dialogue we began some time ago to share things."

Following the forum, Zacharias said he preferred to meet with randomly-selected employees rather than the Classified Employees Committee. "I do not think it is appropriate to have groups who represent anything other than their personal concerns," he explained.

Responding to a question from an employee on whether university personnel would be fired for joining the Kentucky Education Association, Zacharias said, "People on this campus are free to join any organization they choose to join."

Western's board of regents Saturday approved a policy refusing to permit employees to be represented by any third party in discussions with the administration. The policy did include a

statement that sanctions, including discharge, would be taken against employees participating in a strike, slow-down, or sick-in.

About 200 Western employees recently joined the KEA and representatives of the teachers' organization have requested to meet with administrators to discuss employee wages.

Zacharias also presented general information items to the faculty and staff, including recent demographic statistics on Western's students and the search for directors of public information and development.

The regents approved the two new administrative positions Saturday and Zacharias said search committees have started the selection process.

In the immediate future, Zacharias said he will be "involved in trying to draw up basic guidelines and procedures that will enable us to participate in a community that shares a common interest."

And Western's president said he could not emphasize too strongly his support for the faculty and staff.

"I happen to be one who believes you have an important part in shaping the future and that you don't just let it happen to you."

Zacharias declines group's invitation

Daily News 12-7-79

Western Kentucky University President Donald Zacharias has declined an invitation to meet with the WKU Classified Employees Organization on Saturday.

The employees' meeting is scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday at the Kids' Building, 231 Greenwood Way. The Kentucky Education Association, which is attempting to represent about 200 WKU employees who have joined the statewide organization, has a regional office at the same address.

In a statement released this morning, Zacharias said he is declining the invitation as a result of action last Saturday by the board of regents. The board passed a resolution refusing employees to be represented by third party representatives for the purpose of collective bargaining.

"It's clear from the literature distributed on campus by the KEA and by the constant harassment from the KEA, that employees are being asked to join KEA for the purposes of designating them as representative for collective bargaining," Zacharias said.

The invitation from the employees was delivered personally Thursday afternoon by Rhonda Harrod, employee spokesman, and Ken Campbell, a KEA regional representative.

A pamphlet distributed on campus earlier this week invited employees to attend Saturday's meeting which would be attended by Zacharias. The university president said the information distributed by the KEA and employees' group was erroneous.

During a meeting with about 400 faculty and employees Tuesday, Zacharias said he will be meeting with various university employees randomly selected by computer.

"My actions on Tuesday demonstrate my interest in all employees and no one had to pay \$36 to attend. The weekly meetings will begin next week," he said today. "In addition I have requested Harry Largent (vice president for business affairs) to continue exploring ways to provide the best possible working conditions for Western employees."

Information concerning KEA membership notes that annual dues for para-professionals, which would include the WKU employees, are \$36.

Although Tuesday's meeting began at 3 p.m. and employees were compensated for the time if their workday had not concluded, Mrs. Harrod released a statement saying "many of our (CEO) members were unable to attend."

Employee Organization to meet with the group at 2 p.m. that day in the Kid's Building on Greenwood Way.

The organization wants to meet with Zacharias because its "concerns and problems are different than those of the other employees at Western," according to a prepared statement by Mrs. Rhonda Harrod, group spokesman.

"The employees believe that it is in the best interest of the university to resolve our problems within the confines of the university rather than publicizing the problems which we have continuously been confronted with daily," Mrs. Harrod said in the statement.

Daily News 12-6-79

Trains

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Zacharias attendance unsure

Western Kentucky University President Donald Zacharias made no decision on whether he will attend a planned CEO meeting Saturday.

Zacharias said he was giving "careful thought" to a request by the Western Kentucky University Classified

WKU president meets with workers group

Daily News 12-13-79

The president of Western Kentucky University says his meeting Wednesday with 15 randomly selected classified employees was "spirited, but reasonable."

And Dr. Donald Zacharias, who became Western president Aug. 1, said the 75-minute meeting centered on a discussion of campus problems, working conditions and salaries.

"They shared very openly their concerns about salaries and various aspects of working conditions. I explained to them the classified pay plan and how they will benefit from the additional money we will get from the state" when the 1980 General Assembly meets in January, Zacharias said.

Zacharias has said salary and wage increases for all university employees are the major priorities in Western's biennial budget request.

About 200 classified employees, who work in Western's bookstore, cafeterias and physical plant, have formed the WKU Classified Employee Organization and have joined the Kentucky Education Association.

Western's board of regents has adopted a resolution refusing to meet officially with CEO or KEA represen-

tatives because it would be recognition of the group as collective bargaining agent.

One employee who attended the meeting with Zacharias, Ricky Hogue, said it is apparent that Western's president has a plan for resolving the employees' concerns about wages and working conditions. He said Zacharias should be given time to implement his plans.

Zacharias said he did not ask if any of the 15 employees were members of CEO or KEA because "It makes no difference to me what organization they belong to." He said the discussion was restricted to personal concerns and that none of the employees said they were representing other employees.

"It came across that I am concerned about their working conditions and am doing what I can to improve them," Zacharias said.

Western's president said he has scheduled meetings with employees for Monday and Tuesday of next week.

The CEO representatives are scheduled to meet Friday with state Rep. Jody Richards (D-Bowling Green). The meeting will be at 7 p.m. at the KEA district office on Greenwood Way.

Zacharias officially given helmet

4-27-80

By JIM HIGHLAND
Daily News Special Writer

Amid the brightly colored academic robes and praises from people throughout Kentucky, Dr. Donald Zacharias was inaugurated as Western Kentucky University's sixth president Saturday.

Zacharias officially took office Aug. 1, 1979, but since that time, WKU Board of Regents members and a university committee have been planning an inaugural.

Between 800 and 900 persons, including WKU faculty and representatives from various universities throughout the nation, attended the ceremony in Diddle Arena.

As in all inaugurations, this one was characterized by praise for the man who will lead the university in its academic endeavors during the coming

years.

Immediate past WKU Student Association President Jamie Hargrove characterized Zacharias as a man who recognized that the "student is the heart of the university."

And WKU Alumni Association President Don McGuire talked about the values of the institution and called the president the no. 1 guardian of the unique qualities that make "Western one of a kind."

Regents Chairman J. David Cole draped a medallion with the WKU seal around Zacharias' neck as a symbol of his inaugural.

The goal of the university is "academic excellence," Cole said. "This board will accept nothing else."

The inaugural address came from Dr. Robert C. Jeffrey, dean of the College of Communications at the Univer-

sity of Texas and a long time colleague and personal friend of the new president.

Stressing the role of humanism in higher education, Jeffrey said universities are "producing students with the most astounding technological sophistication vocabularies and skills."

"Yet, we are failing to create imaginative, literate human beings," he said.

Enrollment in humanities courses has declined, he said, while enrollment in business, law and engineering has increased.

Jeffries attributed the decline in interest in the humanities to societal stresses, including the government structure of higher education, decreasing college enrollments and increasing economic burdens.

"A major source of the high mortality

rate of college presidents is the growing conflict between the academic community and the public in determining the purposes and functions of institutions of higher education," he said.

Jeffries said that in response to public demands college administrators have shifted from concerns of training concerns for quantity and a language of business has been substituted for a language of academy.

He pointed to a list of 100 professions which produced a list of 100 professions to evaluate the worth of academic programs at that institution.

Among those 11 standards, however, a major stress was the nurturing of graduates, Jeffries said.

He said that with "the inclusion of

Helm

From
Page 1

public in the academy, with the administrative demands for quantifying quality, with the student and professors' demands for marketability, we must not condone the promotion of training and the dissolution of education."

Education must be a "consciously woven program of exploration and intellectual creativity," he added.

In response to the words of praise about him and the inaugural address,

Zacharias said it was his "hope that our gathering here today will symbolize the continuity we have with Western's past and our commitment to strengthening every aspect of Western's future."

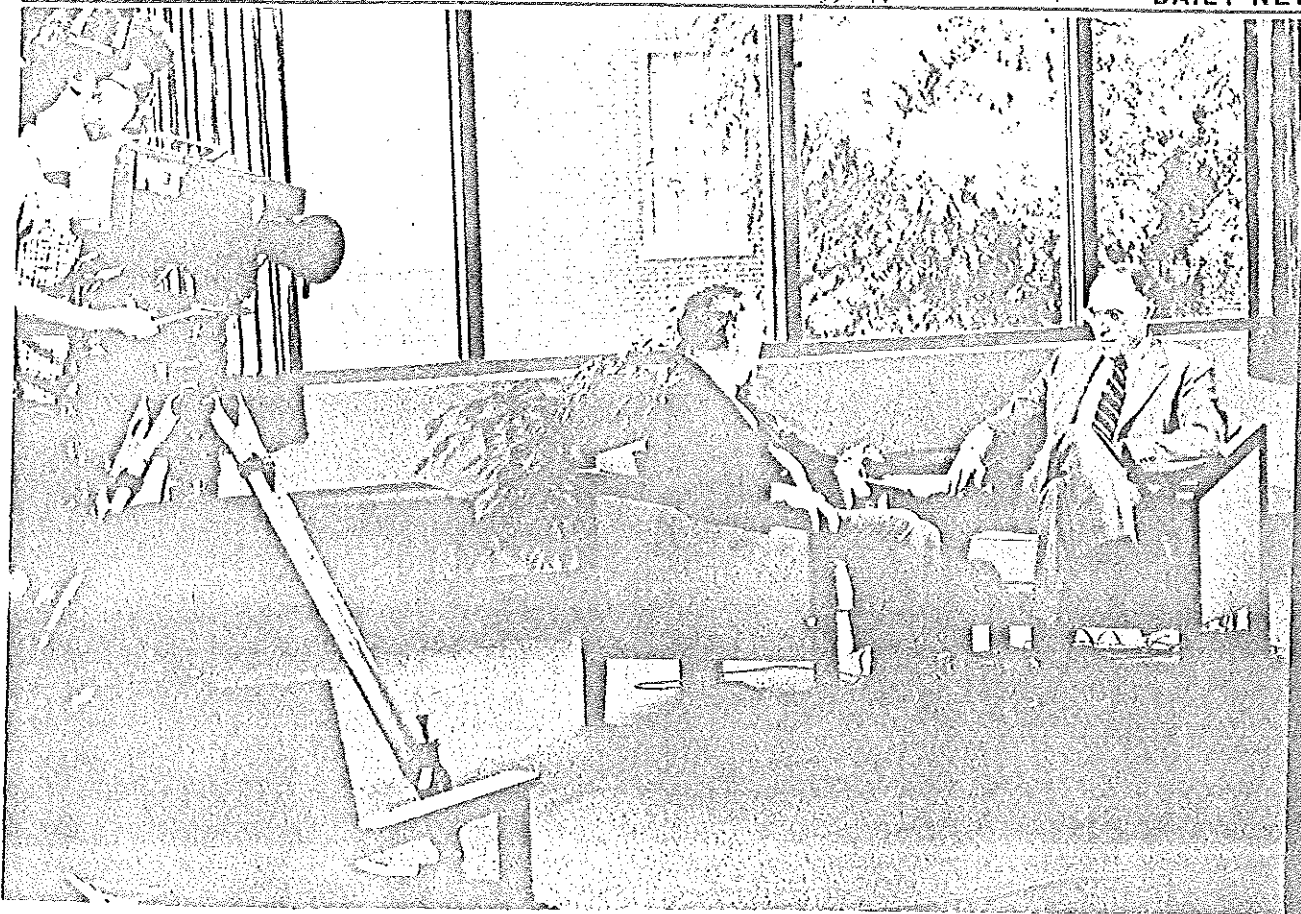
Western exists "for the transfer of information, artistic expression and encouraging the best in human performance," he said. "We, too, must exert ourselves in order to give the same measure as we have received and are still receiving."

Continued Saturday
Column 1, This Section

THURSDAY, JULY 10, 1980

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DAILY NEWS



For television

"BYWORDS," a fall Kentucky Educational Television series, will include a segment with Dr. Donald Zacharias, Western Kentucky University president. Zacharias (right) was interviewed Tuesday by George

Street Boone (left) at the Kentucky Building about developments in higher education. Dates for the 30-minute segment have not been announced.

Zacharias praises faculty in speech

8-24-80

By ELISE GIVEN
Daily News Staff Writer

Although it didn't have all the enthusiasm usually evident in a pep rally, Western Kentucky University's President Donald Zacharias' speech to Western faculty Friday afternoon appeared to be trying for it.

The probable reason for Zacharias' failure in establishing the enthusiasm was the subject of the \$2.2 million budget cut at Western this year.

"There's no reason to believe the reduction will be restored," Zacharias told Western's faculty. "However, someone with the Council on Higher Education's department of finance said the funds just might be restored—if a miracle occurred."

Gov. John Y. Brown Jr. ordered university budget cutbacks across the state last month as a result of major changes in state revenue estimates.

The cutbacks represent 8 percent of Western's state appropriation of \$28.4 million for 1980 and total \$3.2 million during the 1980-81 biennium.

Zacharias said earlier this month that the cutbacks would be made in not hiring new personnel for vacant positions and ordering decreased spending for equipment, supplies, telephones, and utilities. He said the reason for not hiring new personnel was because of his budgeted increase in faculty salaries.

He said some student services will be curtailed and classrooms will have more students this year compared with 1979 because of a decrease in faculty and an increase in enrollment.

Nevertheless, Zacharias welcomed 48 new faculty members Friday saying, "We want you to feel this is your home."

Throughout his 45-minute speech to an approximate crowd of 600, Zacharias complained that the Council on Higher Education was not giving enough praise to the faculty.

"Without our talented and working faculty, we cannot achieve the goals we have set forth," Zacharias said, adding

that he regretted that he has waited so long for the council to speak up for the faculty.

"Our spirit has to be rekindled," he said receiving applause from about 10 people. "Someone has poisoned our enthusiasm."

"In the course of slashing the budget, we'll experience new restraints, struggles and barriers to maintain the quality we now have," he said.

"We must look at the way we instruct to be sure we are making a maximum effort to give the students what they have a right to receive."

Zacharias briefly discussed Western's housing situation with the faculty, requesting instructors to be understanding. He said that because there are 500 more students than rooms available will in some cases result in three students living in a room.

"The residence hall situation may cause discomfort and anxiety for students, but probably not as much discomfort and anxiety as they might have if they couldn't live on campus at all or go to college," Zacharias.

However, Western's president said he felt one encouraging bit of news was in the reorganized Council on Higher Education. "I feel we have some of the finest minds in the state now sitting on the council. I'm very impressed by those individuals," Zacharias said.

"With the new council we have an opportunity we've never had before," he continued. "The council has indicated that it wants to know the mission of all state universities beginning with Kentucky State University."

Zacharias said some of the goals he'd like Western to accomplish this year include systematic evaluations of teaching, increasing public awareness of staff, students and alumni, assessing and developing academic programs, recruiting academically talented students, increasing faculty involvement in university committees and either getting more ambitious or more confident.

BUDGET CUTS LIKE

Illness: Zacharias

Cutbacks in services, declining support for faculty and staff salaries and a 60-day hiring freeze are examples of how Western Kentucky University has felt the impact of cutbacks in state financing, according to President Donald Zacharias.

Speaking to members of two legislative subcommittees this morning, Zacharias said Western has imposed a moratorium on filling faculty vacancies until a reassessment is made of additional budget cuts.

"This kind of budget cut is a form of degenerative process. It's like a degenerative disease. It won't kill you overnight, but it will get you," Zacharias told the panel comprised of members of education subcommittees of the Joint Education Committee and Joint Appropriations and Revenue Committee.

Western's state appropriations for 1980-82 were decreased by \$3.2 million last August as a result of a shortfall of \$114 million in state revenue projections. State finance department officials have estimated the state's budget will be cut an additional \$150 million to \$200 million during fiscal '81, which begins July 1.

Zacharias said the budget cutbacks imposed last year were disproportioned between higher education and other state agencies and that state-funded universities should not be viewed in the same perspective as other agencies.

"Higher education is an investment to the citizens of this state. The assumption is that higher education is an expense," Zacharias said.

In response to a question on ways the state can diminish the effects of additional budget cutbacks for higher education, Zacharias said he favored increased tuition and, if necessary, increased taxes.

"Raising taxes is not very popular, but elimination of services is not very popular either," he said.

Zacharias told the legislators that higher education does not have a strong advocate in the state to present the views and missions of state universities.

"Obviously I'm going to be an advocate for my institution. I have a constituency of faculty, staff and students to serve," Zacharias said.

The two legislative subcommittees have visited all eight state universities.

Zacharias likes teaching assignment

D. N. 8 31-80

It has been 2½ years since the Board of Regents to Western Kentucky make him a tenured professor.

His original plan was to teach one class per year, Donald Zacharias taught a formal class, but his return Friday left him feeling good.

"It felt good," Zacharias said Saturday of his first day with the 25 students enrolled in Business and Professional Speaking.

When he came to Western as the president last August, Zacharias asked him get a direct feel for the

background and abilities of Western students, Zacharias said.

"I feel that I have something to contribute to their education," he added.

Zacharias said he has had considerable success teaching in the past and has been fortunate to have good students.

The class is a beginning course and Zacharias said he thought it would be most appropriate for him to teach

"My feeling was they were looking at me as just another instructor and we had a good class," Zacharias said.

He would like to teach another class next year, but will decide then if he has enough time, Zacharias said. "The presidency is a full time job," he added.

"One of these days, they may ask me to teach full time," he joked.

The class will focus on interviewing, public speaking, small group discussions and parliamentary procedure.

How did the students react to having the university president as a teacher?

WKU deserves area's support

D.N. 1-16-81

Western Kentucky University's president, Dr. Donald W. Zacharias, has made a strong case for more qualified funding of Kentucky's public universities.

Speaking at the annual dinner meeting of the Bowling Green-Warren County Chamber of Commerce, Dr. Zacharias cited figures which show that the University of Kentucky is getting the lion's share of the funds Kentucky is appropriating for higher education while Western is receiving far less than its fair share.

The inequity is apparent in a comparison of funds appropriated for various state universities and the number of degrees which each awards.

Figures compiled by the Council on Higher Education reveal that in 1979-80 Western awarded 16.2 percent of the degrees conferred by Kentucky's eight state-supported universities, while receiving only 8.7 percent of the funds allocated to their support.

Meanwhile, the University of Kentucky was receiving 40.5 percent of available funds while awarding 24.3 percent of all degrees.

The Lexington university of course has law and medical schools and, unlike Western, awards doctoral degrees. But even so, the council figures show that the University of Louisville, which also has medical and law schools and which awards doctoral degrees, received 21.5 percent of available money while awarding 18.8 percent of the degrees.

Granted, the University of Kentucky's mission in Kentucky is unique in some respects, but that hardly seems basis for the huge disparity in state support which the council's figures show.

A more likely reason U.K. fared so well while Western and some other state universities were placed on tight budgets is that supporters of the Lexington institution did a better job of persuading the Council on Higher Educa-

tion and the General Assembly of need than did the partisans of other state-supported universities.

If this is indeed the reason for the inequities, then it is incumbent upon those who believe in the mission and destiny of Western to do everything they can to make certain that WKU gets its fair share of state funds the next time around.

Moreover, it is their obligation to do what they can to insure that higher education as a whole gets an equitable portion of the state budget.

To this end, Dr. Zacharias called upon those attending the Chamber of Commerce dinner for support. We are confident that they and many other Bowling Green citizens not in attendance will respond.

NEWS
from Western Kentucky University

CONTACT: Sheila Conway, News Editor

Office of Public Information • Bowling Green, KY 42101 • (502) 745-4295

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 20, 1981

Bowling Green, Ky.--In a special meeting of the Administrative Council Jan. 19, Western Kentucky University President Donald W. Zacharias announced a 60-day freeze on filling vacant positions.

"The state's financial situation continues to look bad," he said, and added "a major factor" for the freeze "is the condition of the state's economy."

Western's President said positions that are vacant or will be vacated will not be filled "to allow the University to be in the soundest position for protecting its operations."

Dr. Zacharias did say, however, that he has instructed the search committee for the position of dean of the Potter College of Arts and Humanities to continue to pursue a candidate for that position.

He said the vice presidents would reallocate personnel or make arrangements for continuation of services in areas with vacant positions.

"By the end of the 60-day period we should have sufficient information from the state to review our situation and determine the appropriate action for the remainder of the current fiscal year," Dr. Zacharias said.

Some events which will be forthcoming in the next two months which could influence the situation, WKU's president said, could be:

- *another possible reduction during this fiscal year;
- *a new federal administration in Washington;
- *tuition decisions at the Feb. 10 meeting in Frankfort of the Council on Higher Education; and
- *the opportunity for an improvement in the University's budget situation.



(Staff Photo by Mark Workman)

Back Zack

WKU PRESIDENT Donald Zacharias got a little support Saturday as he prepared to meet with his board of regents. Back Zack stickers appeared at different locations on the University campus. It was not known who put up the stickers or why. But they are believed to indicate support for the WKU president who has attacked the state administration for its lack of support of higher education. This particular sticker adorns the statue of former WKU President Henry Hardin Cherry.

D.N. 2-1-81

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NEWS

from Western Kentucky University

Office of Public Information • Bowling Green, KY 42101 • (502) 745-4295

February 23, 1981

STATEMENT FROM DR. DONALD W. ZACHARIAS, PRESIDENT OF WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY,
REGARDING ATTACHED MATERIAL.

The massive reduction in student financial aid recently announced by the Reagan Administration will have a severe impact on the financial aid currently received by Western Kentucky University students. I have asked Vice President for Business Affairs Harry Largen to provide me with a full report showing how our students would be affected by the change in the national plan if Congress adopts the current proposal.

Mr. Largen is considering the appointment of a task force to advise the University's President on ways to reduce the pain that a loss in financial aid would cause many of our students.

This is a time when our country's economic condition is demanding a careful review of our national priorities. While we recognize there is a need to reduce national expenditures, we hope that no major changes will occur in the financial aid programs until universities have had an opportunity to report the full impact on their students.

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DWZ:jd

Zacharias among Texas job finalists

12-21-81

By TIM FISH

Daily News Staff Writer
Western President Donald Zacharias is one of five finalists for presidency at North Texas State University in Denton.

Zacharias said today that he was nominated for the position some time ago and although he left his name in consideration, he is not actively seeking a new position.

"I'm not actively searching for an opportunity to go anywhere else," Zacharias said. "I was nominated. I did not apply. I want to really stress I'm happy here."

A spokesman at the Texas university said no other names have been announced for the job, which would be the replacement for the former president, who took over as president at Texas A&M University this fall.

Zacharias said he has notified the WKU Board of Regents that he is being considered for the position.

Regents Chairman John David Cole said he is happy for Zacharias but hopes he doesn't leave Western.

"This is a compliment to Western...to have a president that is being sought by a larger institution," Cole said. "I think Don Zacharias has a professional obligation to himself to consider the proposal. I hope that Don

Zacharias does not leave."

Cole said if Zacharias is offered the job and accepts it, it will be for professional reasons and not for financial reasons or because he is unhappy.

"This was one of my thoughts during the (WKU presidency) selection process, selecting somebody on the way up," Cole said.

Zacharias has been president at Western since August of 1979, following a lengthy search for a new president to replace retiring Dero Downing.

Before coming to Western, Zacharias had been assistant to the chancellor of the University of Texas System, a professor of speech and communication at UT at Austin and at Indiana University in Bloomington.

Zacharias said North Texas is a good school and he is familiar with the higher education system in the state, which makes the position an excellent opportunity for advancement.

Since he took over as president, Western has faced continual financial problems, and Zacharias said that may be part of the reason he has allowed his name to remain in

consideration for the new position.

"I'm sure that has something to do with it," Zacharias said. "I'm concerned about the state's attitude concerning education. I don't have the view...that education in Kentucky is overfunded."

"The future of the state itself is tied directly to the ability to provide education," Zacharias said.

However, he said those problems

are not unique to this state.

"It doesn't make any difference if I'm at Western or some other university, I'm going to have to deal with those problems," Zacharias said.

Officials at North Texas would not comment on when the final selection would be made, but Zacharias said it would probably come with the next few months.



(Staff Photos by Mike Morse)

Presidential basketball

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY President Donald Zacharias drives to the basket (left) and battles under the boards (above) during a basketball scrimmage Saturday at Diddle Arena. Zack's Pack, consisting of WKU faculty and staff, earlier won a game 54-43 against the WKU chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi.

from Western Kentucky University

CONTACT: Sheila Conway, News Editor

Office of Public Information • Bowling Green, KY 42101 • (502) 745-4295

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 13, 1983

Bowling Green, Ky.--President Donald W. Zacharias will represent Western Kentucky University in special ceremonies Thursday, Sept. 15 in Austin, Tex., to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the opening ceremonies and the first day of classes at The University of Texas at Austin.

Dr. Zacharias joins presidents and representatives of more than 250 institutions of higher education and learned societies in the United States who have accepted an invitation to take part in the historic academic procession of the UT Austin Centennial Convocation.

Also participating in the opening procession are officials of the State of Texas, former Texas governors, current and former members of the UT System Board of Regents, administrative officials of the UT System and of UT Austin, members of the UT Austin Centennial Commission, recipients of the Distinguished Alumnus Award from UT Austin, and representatives of the current UT Austin faculty, staff, and student body.

Texas Governor Mark White and UT System Chancellor E. Donald Walker will address the convocation and UT Austin President Peter T. Flawn will deliver a Centennial address as part of the program.

During the formal ceremonies, the report of the Centennial Commission will be officially presented to the UT System Board of Regents.

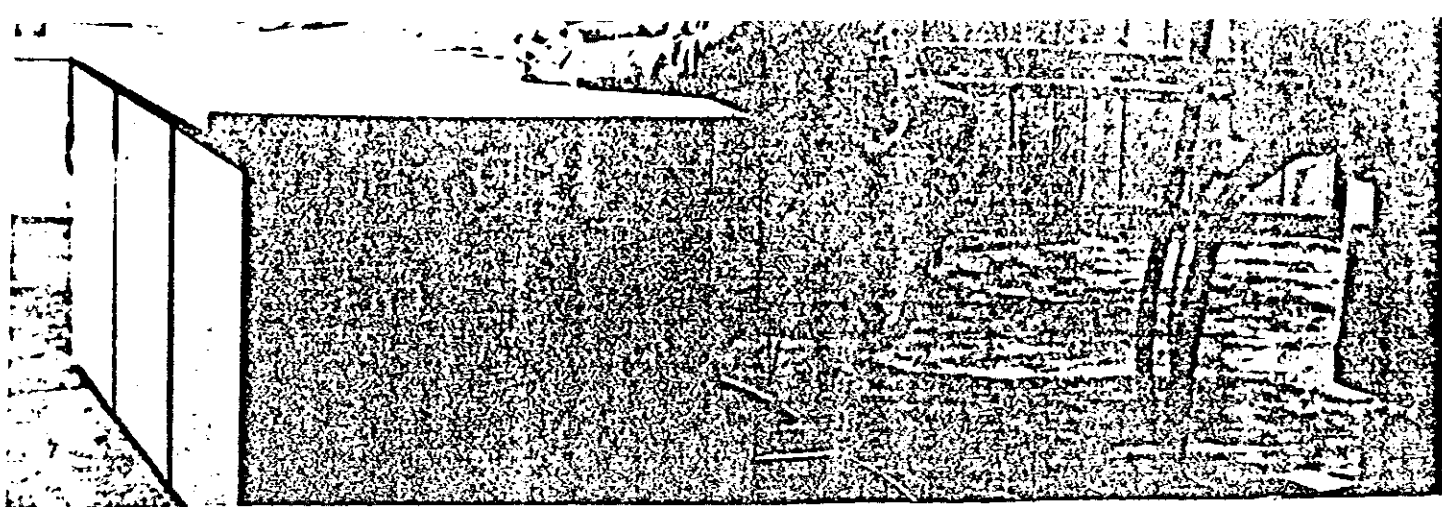
The Commission represents a diversified group of 175 alumni and friends of The University who were appointed in 1980 by the Board of Regents and charged with conducting a formal study of the institution.

The University of Texas-Austin serves as the flagship of a system comprised of 14 institutions of higher education in Texas.

Dr. Zacharias is a former member of the UT-Austin faculty and recipient of a teaching award from there in 1971.

Zacharias

Re: L. L.



(Photo by Gary Harlison)

Presidential host

WESTERN PRESIDENT Dr. Donald Zacharias hosts the monthly show "University Journal," cablecast on Westerncable 4 and broadcast on Kentucky Education Television. His guests last

month were (left) Dr. Otis Singletary, president of University of Kentucky, and Vic Bubas, commissioner of the Sun Belt Conference, of which Western is a member.

Universities highlighted

Zacharias hosts 'Journal'

2-24-84
By STACY TOWLE MORGAN
Daily News Staff Writer

Ever since Western Kentucky University's President Dr. Donald Zacharias has been working in higher education, things have been looking up. And with the monthly production of his cable television show, "University Journal," he has set his sights even higher. Now he's working to heighten the public's awareness of the needs and accomplishments of universities across the country.

"The idea for 'University Journal' grew out of a sense of frustration on the part of some of us from knowing that important things were happening in higher education that were being overlooked," he said. "We tried to think of a way to highlight some of those achievements and major events in higher education."

Zacharias stresses that the show is designed to discuss state and national issues and not meant to promote Western. An indication of its broad appeal is the positive response he has received from viewers across the state who have seen the

program broadcast on Kentucky Education Television.

The show, which has been on the air since last fall, also appears on Westerncable 4 with the audio broadcast on Western's radio station, WKYU-FM.

With a strong communications background, Zacharias is comfortable as host of a television show. He sees the medium of television as a way to multiply his efforts as the university's president, he said. "I simply cannot accept every speaking invitation I have and still have the time and energy left that is required of this office."

The show consists of three segments: news in higher education, an interview and a short commentary, all shot live on tape and then edited together. As producer of the show, Zacharias chooses the monthly topic, edits and collects the news that is presented and writes all the commentary. It isn't that there aren't others who are capable of doing that job, it's just that he is most familiar with the key issues concerning higher education, he said.

"I do all this (editing and writing) on the basis of the kind of interaction I have on campus, with state officials and insights I gain from attending national meetings," he said. "The only way I can share these insights is through this kind of program."

This month's program will feature Harry M. Snyder, executive director of Council on Higher Education and John Frazier, executive director of the Council of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities. It will concern the competition, cooperation and future of public and private institutions, Zacharias said.

In previous months, "University Journal" has dealt with issues such as financial aid for college students, how much control a university president has in administering athletic programs and Kentucky's Rhodes Scholar finalists.

When Rhodes Scholar finalists Tyrone Bastin of Western and Thomas Brown of the University of Kentucky appeared on the show, Zacharias had a specific message to leave with the viewers. "I'd like for that message to be that despite all

criticisms, they (Kentucky schools) are still doing a good job with the resources available to them," he said.

According to Zacharias, even people who work in higher education are unfamiliar with the achievements of their colleagues. "I think one of our problems is that people who work directly in higher education ... are not sufficiently informed as to how it functions," he said.

"University Journal" provides that information. In addition, it provides a training ground for Western's television production students. According to producer/director at Western's television center Michael Lasater, students man the three studio cameras while he directs the show. "We try to use the best people we have available," he said.

The set, designed by Western's graphic artist Tom Foster, gives the show a professional look, but Zacharias adds that he and the guests are by no means polished television people. "We're all amateur and we don't pretend to be anything else," he said.

News

from Western Kentucky University

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 25, 1984

BOWLING GREEN, Ky.--Western Kentucky University President Donald W. Zacharias will replace Eastern Kentucky University retiring President J. C. Powell as state representative to the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

AASCU is a leading higher education association that represents 360 state colleges and universities across the country. It monitors national and state higher education policies and serves as a forum for examining and acting upon higher education issues.

As state representative, Dr. Zacharias will join a network of college presidents who will cooperate to strengthen the ability of state colleges and universities in reviewing, assessing and influencing the status and development of public policy on behalf of public higher education at both the state and national levels.

Western's president has been an active member of AASCU, having just returned from an AASCU-sponsored mission to Thailand where he and 14 other presidents discussed with educators forms of international educational cooperation.

-30-

SC/klo

Zacharias

situation at MSU

129

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — When Donald Zacharias became president at Western Kentucky University, a lot of people told him he'd never fit in because of his Indiana background.

"Those people are my friends now," says Zacharias, adding that he's confident it will be the same after he takes over as president of Mississippi State University Sept. 1.

He has already begun laying the groundwork in visits to the Starkville campus.

"If you're willing to meet people as one human being to another, and are open in your feelings and relationships, you'll be treated the same way," he said.

He was chosen by the state College Board earlier this month to replace James McComas, who resigned to become president of Toledo University in Ohio.

Zacharias, 49, says it's too soon to set any priorities for himself at Mississippi State.

"People expect you to start doing things immediately," he said in a telephone interview. "But I'm not going to do anything like that until I have had time to meet with people on campus and elsewhere in the state."

"When I know their perception of the university and their ideas of needs, I can sort out some priorities," Zacharias said.

He said he had asked the faculty leadership to come up with two lists of things to be done.

"One is a list of things that ought to be considered that don't cost any money. The second list covers things that need to be done and will involve money over the next five to ten years," he said.

Zacharias is realistic about the chances for that second list.

"Mississippi is not the only state I've been in where money is an important consideration, and it forces us to be prudent."

He said he was very much aware of the \$433,000 deficit reported for the past year by the MSU athletic department, and said he had reviewed the matter on his most recent visit.

"Obviously, I will want people to

explain why it occurred, how it can be corrected and how it can be avoided in the future," he said.

Athletic officials at the university have blamed much of the problem on decreased attendance at MSU football games.

Zacharias said he is looking forward to athletics at Mississippi State.

"Anyone who was at the University of Texas, as I was, knows what it means to take athletics seriously." Western Kentucky has been in NCAA Division I sports except for football during his tenure as president.

But he feels sports must take their proper place in the university picture.

"We have failed in some instances to keep a proper balance between athletics and academics," he said. "All the emphasis at times has seemed to be on the athletic side."

He said he approved the NCAA decisions to increase the academic standards for athletes entering college, but added, "the standards must not be unfair to the athletes."

"We're clearly walking a tight rope," he said.

"An athlete has enormous demands placed on him during the time his sport is active, and cannot handle a normal class load," he said. "But at the same time, I feel strongly that the athlete must have the education to have a decent life after his competitive years in college."

"After all," Zacharias said, "not many are going to find satisfaction in pro sports. They must not only be proud of being members of great teams, they also must have a sense of deep pride in their degree."

But, he said, people should dispel the myth that athletes must get a degree in four years.

"We should be more realistic because of the reduced course load athletes must follow, much like those who have to work while going through college," Zacharias said.

"The important thing is the degree, even if it takes five or six years," he said.

Miller.

Zacharias has emerged as a spokesman for higher education in Kentucky. Clark said, and "naturally that brings on attention. If you have a good product, people want it."

“If we had a bad president, no one would want him.”

Clark said he would like to see the board be able to take steps to entice Zacharias to stay at Western, but the only thing they could offer would be more money, "and we don't have more money to offer." Zacharias' salary is about \$78,300.

If the financial situation improves next year, that step may be taken, but Clark said there comes a point where salary is not the main consideration. If the offer is made, Zacharias will have to look at the Mississippi State system and decide if it interests him more than Western Clark said.

If Zacharias does leave, Clark said he doesn't look forward to the search for a new president.

Mississippi State has about 12,000 students and offers doctoral de-

10 colleges, including a new College of Veterinary Medicine that is touted as one of the best in the country. It has an annual budget of about \$150 million; Western's 1985-86 budget is about \$69 million.

The Mississippi system has had quite a few budget problems and small raises for several years, but this year faculty got an 8 percent

College of Business Administration, was interviewed Thursday night and is one of the three finalists. Those finalists include Zacharias and John Darling, vice president for academic affairs and research at Texas Tech.

A Thursday report listed four finalists, but the College Board interviewed a fifth candidate. Thursday night, narrowed the field to three and eliminated two of the original four candidates: John E. Johnson of the University of Tennessee system and John E. LaFountaine of Northern Illinois University, according to the Starkville newspaper.

..I haven't been out campaigning for the position," Zacharias said. ..I'm not out to find a job someplace."

Regent Ronnie Clark said he and the other regents were notified by letter from Zacharias earlier this week.

"We realize he is an individual who is highly sought after," Clark said, "and we certainly don't want to lose him."

“I would sincerely hope he doesn’t take another position,” said Faculty Regent Mary Ellen

Continued Back Page
Column 1, This Section

NOTES BY NEWTON

University of Kentucky Staff Writers
University of Kentucky University
University of Kentucky Zacharias re-
University of Kentucky will be among finalists for
University of Kentucky Mississippi State
University of Kentucky to be announced during
University of Kentucky conference Monday.

He would not deny the trip morning, but said he did not want to comment further until he was released by the college board at noon.

...last, a college board man said he could not help in the presidential search team to say the press was "oversteering."

...who has been at
...years, confirmed he
...for the \$78,600
...have been
...their board to make a
...

...of three finalists for the...
...to Tom Ball, a...
...the Starkville Daily...
...name was thrown...
...by another official...
...for the posi-

The newspaper also is owned by Dr. C. Warren Neel, president of the University of Tennessee.

raise from the state legislature, Ball said. Part of the problem is that Mississippi is a small state with eight universities to split the funds, he said.

Mississippi has placed more emphasis on higher education in the past decade than Kentucky, said Fred Hensley, Western's public information director, who spent five years at Delta State in Cleveland, Miss.

"There's probably more of an awareness of higher education in Mississippi than in Kentucky," Hensley said.

Mississippi State also provides the president with a house, including a swimming pool, gives him access to an airplane and the Development Foundation provides him with an Oldsmobile Delta 55, Ball said. Zacharias receives a similar package at Western.

Sammy McDavid, director of university relations at Mississippi State, said interviews and campus tours for candidates have been set for Aug. 2-3 and Aug. 9-10. The ultimate decision will have to be made by the Board of Trustees, Institutes for Higher Learning, or college board, and the search has been conducted by a committee of board and faculty members, alumni and students, McDavid said.

While funding is spread thin by eight universities, the college board is also looking at consolidation of programs, which has not been popular, McDavid said.

residency at MSU

7-30-85

By TOMMY NEWTON
Daily News Staff Writer

Although President Donald Zacharias is happy at Western Kentucky University, he admits the presidency of Mississippi State University is a position worth considering.

"When you have the opportunity to head up an institution of that complexity and with that kind of mission, you're likely to feel a personal, professional obligation to evaluate it and to give them the opportunity to evaluate you," Zacharias said.

Zacharias, Western's president for six years, John R. Darling, vice president for academic affairs and research at Texas Tech University, and Richard A. Matula, dean of Louisiana State University's College of Engineering, are finalists for the \$78,000-a-year position.

Mississippi State, the state's largest university, is a land-grant university with the mission of improving the quality of life, agriculture, forestry and natural resources and of looking toward the long-term economic condition of the state, Zacharias said.

The Starkville university has an enrollment of about 13,500 and an operating budget of about \$160 million, he said. Western, with about 12,000 students, has a budget of about \$69 million.

"Their mission statement is significantly broader than what we have here," he said.

Zacharias said he was recommended by people he respects who said the job is "an important professional opportunity that matches with the experience I have had." He was executive assistant to the chancellor of the University of Texas system before coming to Western and was a finalist in 1982 for the presidencies of the University of Wyoming and North Texas State University.

Mississippi State has 10 colleges, including a College of Veterinary Medicine and a College of Engineering, and offers doctoral degrees in about a dozen areas.

In his years in higher education, Zacharias said he has seen no institution with everything in perfect order. The Mississippi State job presents challenges like Western, he said.

"I'll learn more when I visit the campus," Zacharias has interviews and campus tours scheduled Aug. 9. Darling and Matula will be interviewed this weekend.

In an earlier interview with Mississippi's college board, Zacharias said he found the members to be straight-forward on issues facing higher education. "Higher education is on a regular statewide agenda and has the attention of decision makers in the state," he said.

The climate for education is strong, said George Carter, assistant executive director of the Mississippi Board of Trustees for State Institutions of Higher Learning. And, Carter said, the state tries to devote as much of its limited resources as it can to education.

About 61 percent of the 1985 state budget is earmarked for education, he said. Higher education receives 15.4 percent of the state budget.

"In looking for a new president for Mississippi State University, the goal is to find a strong individual to take a strong university and make it stronger," Carter said.

The three finalists have slightly different records but are familiar with the opportunities of higher education, Zacharias said. "I don't know what profile will be most compatible at Mississippi State University."

The college board may be looking for a president to complement Aubrey K. Lucas, president of Southern Mississippi University, and R. Gerald Turner, chancellor of the University of Mississippi, who Zacharias called "dynamic leaders."

Asked if he was a dynamic leader, Zacharias said he would let other observers decide that. But, he added, "I see myself as a person committed to building education and to the impact education can have on people and what it can do to produce enjoyable life."

Comparing the finalists with other university presidents has not been important to the board because of the schools' missions, Carter said. The Mississippi State president has to deal with agriculture, engineering and liberal arts interests and manage them into a cohesive and viable university, Carter said.

The new president will replace James McComas, who resigned July 5 after nine years to become president of the University of Toledo in Ohio.

The 13-member board has not committed itself to a selection date, Carter said. "The only commitment has been to have the president selected as early in the fall as possible," he said. The board's next meeting is Aug. 14-15 in Jackson, Miss.

More than 100 people were nominated for the job, Carter said. "The three finalists are quite desirable individuals for the presidency of Mississippi State University," he said.

"I know I don't have to tell people in Bowling Green this but Don Zacharias would be a plum for any university."

Western to begin its search

By TOMMY NEWTON
Daily News Staff Writer

Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents may name an interim president and begin the selection process for the school's seventh president as early as Monday, according to Board Chairman Joe Iracane.

A board meeting has been tentatively scheduled for Monday, when most regents should be in Bowling Green for a public hearing on the Council on Higher Education's strategic plan, he said.

President Donald Zacharias was named president of Mississippi State University Saturday in Starkville. Zacharias, who has been at Western since 1979, has not set a date to take over at MSU but said Saturday he would probably leave Western within six weeks.

The procedure to select a replacement has not been decided, but Iracane said the board will first name an interim president and a screening committee. Details should be worked out by Monday, he added.

Iracane said he has contacted other universities to check on their selection systems and has talked with Zacharias about the MSU process.

"President Zacharias left on a positive note and we feel we can use his expertise in putting together the machine that will find his replacement," Iracane said.

Western

Zacharias will leave the university in a positive way, Iracane said. "We're in really good shape," he added.

Zacharias, who came to Western from the University of Texas system, has added a tremendous amount of prestige to the position, Iracane said. "We feel very strong about the types of candidates we will be looking at," he said. "We feel we will have an outstanding number of applicants apply."

The regents will look for a president who can keep Western on a positive course, Iracane added.

A deadline for naming a new president has not been set, he said. "We will take as long a time as we need," Iracane said.

Clark, the only current board member involved in the search and hiring of Zacharias, hopes the board can name a president by the first of the year.

"The procedures we used in choosing President Zacharias are not set in concrete and are subject to change," Clark said. That process began in September 1978 when Dero Downing resigned and

ended in May 1979. "I would hope we would not drag it out that long," Clark added.

That selection procedure began with Dr. J. Minton, vice president for student affairs, naming interim president and a screening committee of alumni, faculty, students and administrative staff appointed, Clark said.

The screening committee took applications and provided the regents with a list of 20 candidates, he said. The board narrowed that list to four on-campus and 10 off-campus candidates, Clark added.

Those candidates were interviewed and five finalists, including Zacharias, were selected, he said. Two finalists withdrew during the process, Clark added.

The selection process, though time consuming, was workable, Clark said. "I think it can be speeded up a little bit," he said.

"We do have a different chemistry as a board and that in itself may speed it up. It possibly could be a speedier process or it could be a reverse."

Zacharias will be gone, but his message won't

KENTUCKY'S loss in the departure of Donald W. Zacharias is not just Mississippi's gain. It's another painful reminder that this state's chronic refusal to regard higher education as an investment, rather than an expense, has much to do with our continuing economic backwardness.

That very point was made in a much-discussed 1981 speech by Dr. Zacharias, who had then been president of Western Kentucky University for a year and a half and who is now leaving to head Mississippi State University. In that speech, he acknowledged Kentucky's fiscal crisis, which had forced cutbacks in virtually every area of government spending including higher education. But he also cited the

fact that only 40 percent of this state's high school graduates go on to college, compared to 60 percent in most states, as long-term evidence of undeveloped human potential.

Not much has changed since, though the Council on Higher Education has now begun holding public hearings on its 84-page draft of a Strategic Plan for substantial reforms. The words still do not seem full of Kentucky citizens ready to demand that the Governor and General Assembly find funds for real improvement of the state's eight public universities.

Perhaps such a clamor will develop; perhaps Dr. Zacharias will be able to look back at Kentucky, two or three years from now, and see the sort of

growth that has been occurring in such other once-backward places as Mississippi. That would be exciting: America's industrial and business future depends to a great extent on a workforce much better educated than in the past. States that ignore this reality are in deeper trouble than they recognize.

Dr. Zacharias, as Western's sixth president and as chairman of a conference of the eight state university presidents in Kentucky, has sounded the warning. He sounded it so eloquently four years ago that 300 Western students paraded in bitter cold, shouting "We want Zach! We want Zach!" to applaud his fight against state budget-cutters. It was a heart-warming sound. But oh so rare.

By Steve Paul
News Editor

Although Western has seen much development over the past several years, President Donald Zacharias said there needs to be more state support to keep it competitive and to continue its growth.



Donald Zacharias

"One thing I haven't seen is state support," said Zacharias, who accepted the president's job at Mississippi State University last Saturday. "Unfortunately, we're having to shift more and more to internally-generating funds."

Zacharias said Western's budget this year is \$68 million, with \$34 million of that being state funds. The other 50 percent comes from tuition, fees, donations and grants.

"A lot of people don't realize that," Zacharias said.

A major concern, he said, is faculty salaries. While businesses and corporations are predicting a 6 percent increase in salaries, the current budget estimates a 5 percent increase, but not necessarily in salaries. Over the past two years, he said, there have been a 2-3 percent increase in salaries.

"We're slipping behind the national average in a dangerous rate," he said. "That simply has to be corrected in some way."

But Zacharias said university officials can't allow the problem to "overwhelm" them because they'll lose their prospective

The key is the governor and the General Assembly. He said they should be encouraged by a recent poll that showed that Kentuckians are pleased with the state's universities and believe more money should be appropriated.

"It's a case where the public is in front of the action taken so far to improve higher education," he said.

But he said he has sympathy for legislators in

"meeting the state's needs." The General Assembly needs to set up priorities, he said, with education on top of the list.

Zacharias, who came to Western in 1979, said he has seen many accomplishments among students, faculty and administrators.

"I think we've invested in the future of these young people who have come here," he said. "I think there's a commitment to that goal that affects all that goes on here."

He also said he doesn't believe Western is conservative, as it has been labeled by some people. In fact, he said there is also the image that Western students have "too much freedom" and "too much interest in having a good time."

Zacharias said the criticism is "erroneous" and said Western students are good about following rules and getting an education.

Most students, he said, know how to take care of themselves. "We have some students who don't handle themselves well," he said, but adding that those are few.

Leadership at Western is growing, he said, but students need to be encouraged to develop a more "intellectual attitude."

Zacharias said students

Cont. on page 4

Zacharias bidding farewell to Western Ky.

Cont. from page 1

needs to have more interest in the fine arts, such as art and theater, and in literature and science.

"I wish more of our students were more in-depth students," he said.

He also would like to see the faculty increase their role in professional meetings in their fields and use more modern teaching

methods and testing.

Zacharias went to Mississippi State last Friday to meet with the Board of Trustees and with the screening committee. He was the last of three finalists to be interviewed.

He toured campus, gave a brief presentation and answered questions. The screening committee met Saturday and recommended

Zacharias; the board approved it unanimously in a meeting.

"All the signs were very positive,"

He also said there is a fine arts center that "rivals anything I've seen in this state."

"It's a spectacular facility," he said.

The students are "top-notch," he said, adding that the average ACT score is

20.6. "That's above the national average."

Zacharias said the faculty are able to bring in several million dollars in federal grants.

One characteristic Mississippi State shares with Western, he said, is the high level of dedication shown by alumni.

Western's Board of Regents will begin a search process for a new president.

Zacharias

Western's faculty, staff, students and members of the community will honor President and Mrs. Donald W. Zacharias at a public reception Thursday from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Downing University Center.

Everyone is invited to offer best wishes to the president, who will assume the presidency of Mississippi State University next month.

An informal program is scheduled for 5 p.m. Zacharias will end his six-year term as Western's sixth president August 31.

Dr. Paul B. Cook will serve as president during the period the university's Board of Regents will conduct a national search for a successor.

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

Zacharias reception slated

Western Kentucky University will have a reception 3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Thursday at Downing University Center for faculty, students, staff and the public to honor Dr. and Mrs. Donald Zacharias, Western's president.

Zacharias is leaving his post Saturday to assume the presidency of Mississippi State University.

An informal program is scheduled at 5 p.m.

D.A. 8-27-15

Zacharias recalls 6 years at WKU

8-30-85

By BOB SKIPPER
Daily News Staff Writer

Running a university is "not a one person job," according to Dr. Donald Zacharias. And as Zacharias prepares to leave the presidency at Western Kentucky University to take a similar position at Mississippi State University, he said that is one of the points he has tried to make in his six years at Western.

"I've had excellent support from the administration on campus and the president's office," Zacharias said Thursday before attending a reception in his honor at the Downing University Center.

About 500 people attended the reception, waiting in line to say goodbye to Zacharias and his wife, Tommie, and to wish the interim president, Dr. Paul Cook, well while the board of regents looks for a new president.

Zacharias reminisced about some of the changes at Western and in higher education in general and outlined some of the major issues facing the next Western administrator.

"The big question is additional resources," he said. "The choices are clear at the state level. There's not likely to be a rapid growth (in revenue) without changes in the tax structure or additional taxes."

If those changes are not made, the university will have to look at ways to cut the budget. "Most of us have already reduced (budgets) in most every area," he said, adding further cuts will have "serious impact on the nature of the university or its character as its known today."

Another major challenge facing



(Staff Photo by Bob Skipper)

Saying goodbye

DONALD ZACHARIAS, outgoing president of Western Kentucky University, shakes hands with a man in a suit during a reception at the Downing University Center. About 500 people attended the reception honoring Zacharias, who leaves Western Saturday to take the presidency at Mississippi State University in Starkville.

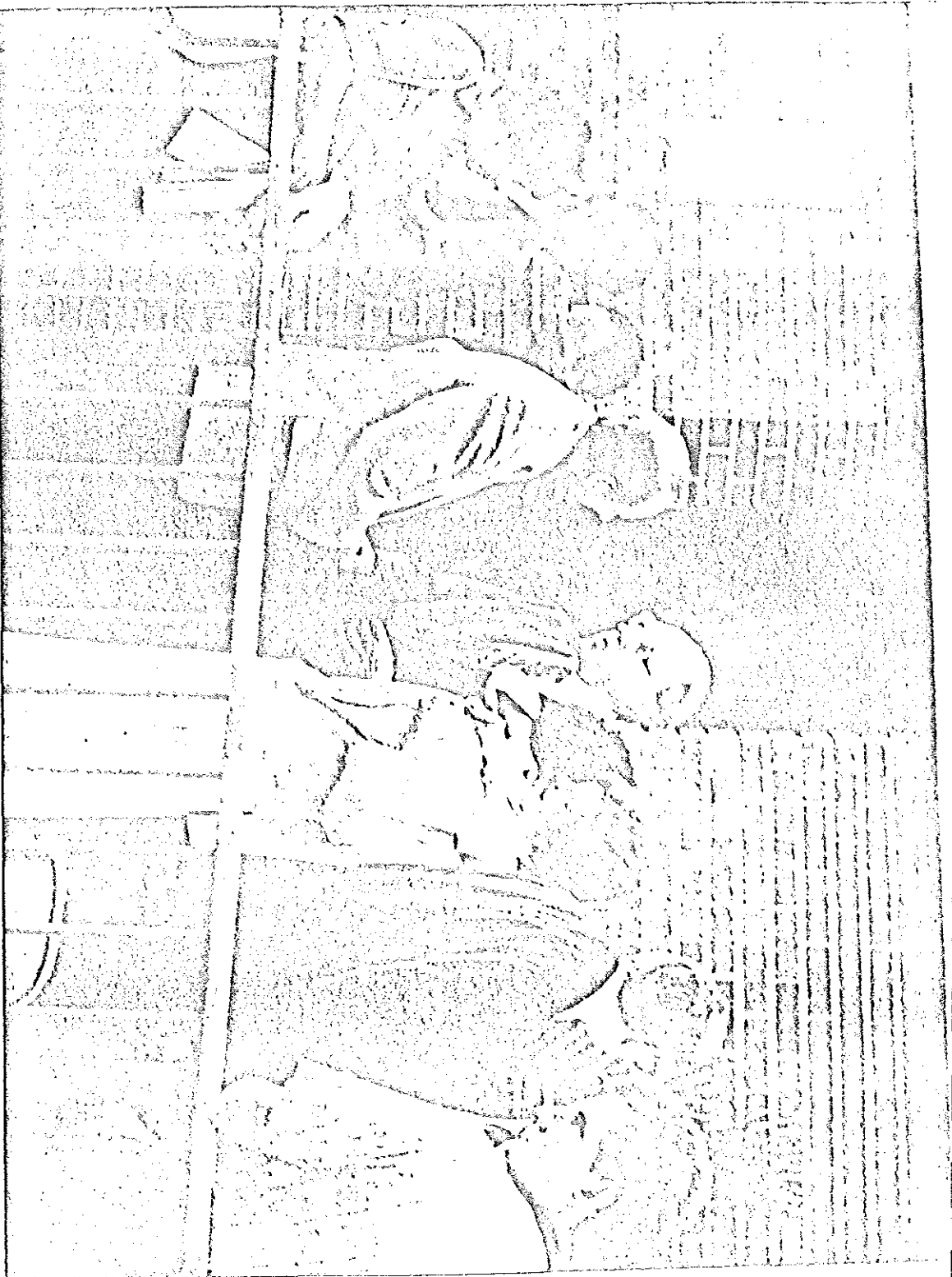


Photo by Amy Holland

Bidding farewell

Western President Donald Zacharias shakes hands with Jim Scott and Tommie Zacharias gets a hug from Shirley Scott Thursday at a reception for them in Downing University Center. Zacharias officially ended his duties as president today, and he and his family will be moving to Starkville, Miss., where he will be president of Mississippi State University. Zacharias has been president for six years.

Mississippi State University

5-31-85

Zacharias unsure of status

Dr. Donald Zacharias, president of Mississippi State University in Starkville, said Wednesday he's not sure what his current status is as a candidate for the University of Kentucky presidency.

"I haven't been contacted, so I really don't know what my status is," said Zacharias, who resigned as Western Kentucky University's sixth president in August 1985 to take the job at Mississippi State.

"Apparently, the screening is being done very quietly by the UK search group," he continued. "Really, this is in the hands of UK's board and it wouldn't be appropriate for me to comment."

Zacharias told the Daily News last October that he had been included in the nominations to replace Dr. Otis Singletary as UK's president.

Singletary announced he will step down from the presidency when his contract expires June 30 with plans to resume his teaching career at UK.

Zacharias also declined to comment about the recent controversy surrounding the UK search and Gov. Martha Layne Collins, who has declined to remove herself from consideration for the presidency.

Some in the state's higher education circle have claimed Collins' nomination presents a conflict of interest and therefore it would be best for UK and the state for her to withdraw her name.

"I know a lot of complications have arisen," Zacharias said. "But any search process can get complicated."

D.N. 2-5-87

3 GREEN, KENTUCKY

Former Western president among U of L prospects

2-19-45 DN

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Several women have drawn consideration for the presidency of the University of Louisville, including a former dean at the school and the interim head of Howard University.

Consultants for the search committee have interviewed Lois Kronholm, former dean of U of L's College of Arts and Sciences who is now senior vice president and provost of Baruch College in New York.

Kronholm said she was honored to be considered for the U of L presidency but felt obligated to complete projects she has under way.

Joyce Ladner, interim president of Howard University in Washington, D.C., also confirmed that she had been contacted. But she said she is committed to Howard, the nation's most renowned, historically black school, where she is being considered for the presidency. A decision is expected in April.

Lindsey DesRochers, vice president for finance and administration at Portland State University in Oregon, also said she had been nominated for the U of L job but hasn't pursued it.

Like outgoing U of L President Donald Swain, she once worked for the California university system.

Other candidates to succeed Swain contacted by the consultants — Heidrich & Struggles — include Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson and Don Zacharias, the former president of Western Kentucky Uni-

versity, who now heads Mississippi State University in Starkville.

But a significant number of women are among the active candidates, said law professor Robert Stenger, who is chairman of a faculty advisory committee for the search.

Stenger didn't know the number of women candidates, and George Fischer, the trustee who is leading the search committee, declined to comment on the number of women being considered.

Fischer said fewer than 20 people are on an "A" list of candidates getting most attention. That's down from 150 people when the search committee started meeting last fall.

If a woman is selected to head U of L, the school would be following a national trend. About 450 presidents are women — roughly 15 percent of the total, said Donna Shavlik, director of the Office of Women in Higher Education at the American Council on Education.

Former WKU leader battles disease, resigns

■ Zacharias has multiple sclerosis, to leave Miss. State

By EILEEN LOH
The Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. — After six years of quietly battling multiple sclerosis, Mississippi State University President Donald Zacharias will resign at the end of the year to fight the disease full-time.

"I do hope very sincerely that I can help show that people (with MS) can function, that you can do a quality job, and with the support of friends and others, you can lead a great life," he said.

Zacharias came to Mississippi State in 1985 from Western Kentucky University, where he served as president six years. He said Monday that after consulting with his physicians last week, he decided to push his retirement announcement ahead about six months.

A hospital stay last week and abounding speculation about his health led Zacharias, 61, to disclose he has the neurological disorder.

He said he needed "prayers and patience as we adjust to this new reality in our lives, and as we set about personally and professionally



DONALD ZACHARIAS

to make necessary and appropriate decisions."

Tom Layzell, the state's higher education commissioner, said the College Board would begin a national search for a replacement and "we will probably get that started as early as the next board meeting" in April.

Zacharias said he wanted no input in the decision process.

"The apparent role that I have at this point is to keep the university functioning as well as it can function, have it in as fine a financial condition as I can bring it, and step out of the way" to let others choose its next leader, he said.

Zacharias, the school's 15th president, was hospitalized in 1990 after suffering an apparent seizure. Physicians determined the cause of the seizure was brain scar tissue.

About 300,000 Americans suffer from the disease, which attacks myelin, a fatty substance that insulates nerves. Sufferers experience fatigue, vision problems, tingling or numbing in the arms and legs and other symptoms during early attacks of the disease.

DN 3/25/97

By Zacharias, Donald



WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

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Zacharias Honored For Contributions To Gifted Education

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Bowling Green, Ky. - Dr. Donald Zacharias, former president of Western Kentucky University, was recognized recently by The Center for Gifted Studies at Western Kentucky University for his contributions to gifted children in Kentucky and beyond.

Dr. Julia Roberts, director of The Center, honored Dr. Zacharias in the John Grisham Room at Mississippi State University in Starkville, Miss., where he is president emeritus.

He joins Dr. Susan Leib and Dr. J.T. Sandefur who were honored this year with crystal Challenge Awards in the Rotunda in Frankfort, Ky. They joined previous Challenge Award winners Dr. Larry Laird, Doris Mills and Speaker of the House Jody Richards.



Dr. Zacharias, WKU president from 1979 to 1985, was instrumental in establishing The Center. "Julia Roberts and I worked together in establishing The Center for Gifted Studies," he said. "At her initiative we visited TIP at Duke University and decided we could do something similar at Western. I supported her effort, but she did the work."

For more information, contact Tracy Inman at (270) 745-6323. More WKU news is available on the World Wide Web at www.wku.edu. If you'd like to receive WKU news via E-mail, send a message to WKUNews@wku.edu.

Photo caption: From left, Tommie Zacharias, Dr. Donald Zacharias, Dr. Julia Roberts and Dr. Dick Roberts.

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